



Buzz Aldrin Middle School
The STEM Magnet

173 Bellevue Avenue
Montclair, NJ 07043
www.montclair.k12.nj.us



Principal's Bulletin
December 17th, 2021

Buzz Aldrin Mission Statement:

We believe that all students can learn, achieve, and grow, in a safe and secure environment.

- I am thrilled to announce Buzz Aldrin's 2021-2022 Governor's Educator of the Year recipients. The GEOY Teacher of the Year award goes to Diana Grassi, an ELA teacher. Our Educational Service Provider of the Year goes to paraprofessional, Kaitlin Machuca. Thank you to all of the parents who nominated various staff members. Congratulations to Ms. Grassi and Ms. Machuca. We are so proud of you and we celebrate this accomplishment with you!
- This week our students participated in a schoolwide initiative to help save our earth's waters. This initiative was led by Ben Litman and the Start with Hello club. Special thanks to Ben Litman, the Start with Hello club, and the Start with Hello advisors, Ms. Kobliska and Ms. Kosuda. The week started off with an advisory created by Ben and it was followed by a the TeamSeas fundraiser. The initiative was started by Youtubers Mark Rober with the goals of cleaning the seas, oceans, and rivers. This was a fantastic idea brought to the school and initiated by Ben. In just three days, our amazing Buzz students raised \$3841.87! The generosity was overwhelming. The winning homeroom was Homeroom 203A, Mr. Santos and Ms. Woody's homeroom. We are in awe of the positivity our students are bringing to the community and to the world. We are grateful!
- Thank you to Mr. Taylor for organizing the Stargazing event on Wednesday evening. He arranged for the North Jersey Astronomical Group to conduct an extremely informative presentation for our Buzz students. The presentation was extremely informative. It is fascinating how much knowledge these individuals have about our earth, astronomy, stars, and planets. The students viewed the moon, and other deep sky objects such as the Andromeda Galaxy, the Orion Nebula, the Crab Nebula, and other star clusters.
- We are so proud of the PCSG girls for their amazing accomplishment. They were featured on NBC yesterday evening on NBC as part of L'Oreal's Annual Women of Worth celebration, which aired at 8 pm. Please join me in congratulating Samantha Leftwich, Charlotte Wurmser, Ella Reynolds, Samaara Navani,

Shayna Safirstein, and Aaria Shah. We are so proud of you all! Thank you to Mr. Taylor for organizing this amazing opportunity for our Buzz students.

- I am pleased to announce that some of our BAMS students participated in L'Oreal's Annual Women of Worth celebration, which will air on December 16th at 8 pm on NBC. Please join me in congratulating Samantha Leftwich, Charlotte Wurmser, Ella Reynolds, Samaara Navani, Shayna Safirstein, and Aaria Shah. We are so proud of you all! Thank you to Mr. Taylor for organizing this amazing opportunity for our Buzz students. Please see the attached flyer for more information.
- Next week, we will have our second Buzz Aldrin School Spirit Week. Each day will have a set theme. Please see the list of themed days below.
 - Monday, December 20th – Pajama Day
 - Dress up in your favorite comfy pajamas
 - Tuesday, December 21st – Twin or Triplet Day
 - Coordinate with any other student or students to dress alike
 - Wednesday, December 22nd – Winter Hat Day
 - Wear your favorite winter hat
 - Thursday, December 23rd – Ugly Sweater Day
 - Wear the ugliest holiday sweater you can find!
- On Thursday, December 23rd, Buzz Aldrin will hold a “Zero Day”, which means students will participate in various activities with their homerooms. The activities will be tied to SEL, fun and engaging, and allow our students to have the opportunity to relax and enjoy some fun before the winter break.
- Remote Instruction Requests: Remote instruction will be provided for students who travel during the holiday break and need to quarantine upon return or if the absences are COVID-related. We are not responsible for providing remote instruction while students travel prior to the Winter Break. If you are planning on traveling during the winter break, you should have submitted the Google form to notify the office. We will not take phone calls, emails as requests. We need to store the information in one central location. Please note that remote instruction is reserved for COVID-related reasons such as quarantining or testing positive for COVID-19. Parents and students are not to reach out to teachers directly to request remote instruction. All remote instruction requests must go through administration. Additionally, please understand that we must have time to secure additional devices and notify teachers to provide remote instruction. I would like to thank our fabulous teaching staff for doing such a great job handling all of the remote learning requests. It is not an easy task to provide remote and in-person instruction at the drop of a hat, so I would like to thank them for a job well done. Your hard work is appreciated!
- If the pandemic has caused a loss of income that makes it difficult for you to pay your rent and/or utility bills, consider applying for relief through the **Emergency Rental Assistance Program (ERAP)**. An eligible household may receive assistance for up to 18 months of home energy costs incurred on or

after March 13, 2020. Applicants are required to prove loss of income or employment, or are facing a financial hardship due directly or indirectly to the COVID-19 pandemic. Applicants must also demonstrate a risk of experiencing homelessness or housing instability such as past due notices, rent notice or eviction notice, etc.

- **Please be sure you have all of the below information in order to submit your application:**
 - Personal ID for the applicant and all household members
 - Lease agreement or rental agreement signed by your landlord
 - Income information for all household members older than 18 (Paystubs, Unemployment benefits, Bank statements showing direct deposits, SSI or SSDI statements)
 - Information about unpaid rent and utilities (Statements, Bills, etc.)
- In order to receive assistance, you must submit an application. **[CLICK HERE To APPLY!](#)**

- We are no longer issuing loaner Chromebook devices to students. Students will be responsible for bringing their own charged devices to school. Additionally, we are not accepting parent drop offs for any items other than Chromebooks.

- **General Reminders & Updates for Parents/Families:**
 - Please remind your children he/she/they must be careful with their Chromebooks. The district-issued devices need to be taken care of, and we have many students who are placing requests for damaged devices.
 - As the cooler weather approaches, please ensure your children are dressed appropriately for outdoor conditions. This means he/she/they should have a coat, sweatshirt, hat, or any other clothing that allows for them to be comfortable during the day and for outdoor lunch/recess.
 - When students have indoor recess, they will be in the auditorium. Since there are simultaneous classes running in the auditorium, it is important that students bring their own books to read or something he/she/they can work on independently. It is their free time to unwind and relax, but we must also be mindful of our dance classes.
 - Cell phone use is not permitted during the school day. Parents should not text or call their children during school hours.
 - Masks are required at all times while in the building. If students fail to wear their masks in school, he/she/they will be sent home. If possible, please send your child to school with an extra mask in case the original mask is misplaced or damaged. If students cannot follow the mask policy, they will be sent home.
 - Please make sure your child has a water bottle with him/her/them each school day.
 - Students are required to bring their fully charged Chromebooks to school each day. We are also encouraging students to bring their Chromebook chargers to school.
 - Please complete a free/reduced meal application if you would like to do so. The online form is available at <https://www.nlappscloud.com/> and hard copies are available in the main office. You may also visit the Department

of Agriculture's website to access an application in a language other than English or Spanish (<https://www.fns.usda.gov/cn/translated-applications>).

- Again, please **DO NOT** drop off or pick up your child in the front of the building or in a location where they must cross the street. Grownups need to remain in their cars and be sure not to block the staff parking lot while waiting for their children. Students should not cross the street at any location other than the designated crosswalks. Parents should not stand in the staff parking lot to pick up their children. **This is a safety issue.** Despite the number of times this is written in school communications, this is still a problem. Please abide by the school's rules.
- **Parents are not permitted to drop off belongings, lunches, materials throughout the day.** We will not accept materials dropped off while school is in session. Therefore, it is essential that you make sure your child has all the necessary materials he/she/they would need prior to entering the building.
- The health forms must be completed by 7:00 am on Tuesdays and Thursdays. This must be done in order for students to attend classes. If health forms are not completed in time, students will need to wait in the auditorium until they can complete one themselves. This results in a loss of valuable instructional time.
- There are no visitors permitted in the building at any time.
- Please encourage your child to leave their desk shields (dividers) in their lockers when not in use. We do not have enough extras to provide loaners for all those who forget.
- Parents are not permitted to ask teachers for remote instruction without prior approval granted from building administration. Remote instruction can only be granted for COVID-related reasons.
- **After School Clubs & Activities Protocols:**
 - Students are not permitted to leave the building and return for afterschool activities. They must remain in the building until the program/club has ended.
 - Students are responsible for their own transportation home from all clubs and activities. Please pick your children up in a timely manner.
 - Club advisors and staff members do not participate in arranging carpools or parent pick-ups after the club ends.
 - Students must report directly to the designated club meeting room or location immediately after the dismissal bell rings.
 - Students are to report to their lockers at dismissal then to the club meeting with their belongings. They will be dismissed straight from the designated club room.
 - Students are not permitted to go to their lockers or roam throughout the building after a club or activity is dismissed. This is a safety issue. If this occurs, a student may be removed from the club or activity.
- Yearbooks: Yearbooks are now on sale! To order your copy of the yearbook please visit <https://www.jostens.com/yearbooks/students-and-parents/about->

[yearbooks](#), or reach out to Mrs. Mintz (jmintz@montclair.k12.nj.us) with any questions.

Next Week's Schedule of Days

- Monday, December 20th – E Day
- Tuesday, December 21st – F Day
- Wednesday, December 22nd – A Day
- Thursday, December 23rd – Zero Day – Abbreviated Day Schedule

Please mark your calendars:

- Monday, December 20th – Board of Education Meeting @ 7:30 pm
- Thursday, December 23rd – Zero Day, Abbreviated Day
- Mon, December 27th – Fri, December 31st – Winter Recess, Schools Closed
- Monday, January 3rd – Schools Return to Session
- Monday, January 3rd – PTA Meeting @ 7 pm
- Wednesday, January 5th – Board of Education Meeting @ 7:30 pm

“You will face many defeats in life, but never let yourself be defeated.”

--Maya Angelou

**“The best and most beautiful things in the world cannot be seen or even touched—
they must be felt with the heart.**

--Helen Keller